THIS IS A DREAM? IS THAT WHY EVERYTHING LOOKS ODD?
SNOW'S TRAPPED US IN OUR DREAMS. I DRAGGED YOU IN HERE BECAUSE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO ESCAPE SNOW'S ATTENTION AND FREE US.
I'D DO IT MYSELF, BUT SNOW IS USING PAOLLO'S MAGIC, WHICH MY OWN MAGIC IS TIED TO. I CAN'T FIGHT IT.
IF I EVEN LOOK AT THE... AT THE ILLUSION SNOW HAS MADE, I'LL LOSE WHAT CONTROL I HAVE AND BE LOST AGAIN TO THE DREAM.
BUT I CAN SHOW YOU THE PATH, AND THE DIFFICULT TASK AHEAD OF YOU.
SHAAAAA

SNOW'S WEB OF DREAMS. IF YOU CAN CALL IT THAT.
WHAT A MESS. THE MOST NOVICE DREAM WEAVER BACK HOME WOULD BE ASHAMED TO SHOW THIS KIND OF WORK.
ALL THE DREAMS ARE TIED INTO THOSE THREE LARGE ONES.
WAKE THOSE DREAMERS AND THE WHOLE THING WILL FALL APART AND FREE THE OTHERS.
HOW? HOW DO YOU WAKE SOMEONE UP FROM INSIDE THEIR OWN HEAD?
THE DREAMERS WILL BE CONFUSED. THEIR OWN SECRET FEARS TURNED AGAINST THEM.
REMIND THEM WHAT'S REAL, AND TRUE, AND GOOD. THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO THE REST.

IT PAINS ME TO ASK THIS OF YOU. YOU HAVE NOT HAD THE TIME OR THE TRAINING TO SHAPE YOUR DREAM SELF, OR DISCOVER THE WEAPONS WITHIN YOUR MIND.
BUT THIS IS THE PATH THE STARS HAVE MADE. WE MUST WALK IT OR PERISH.
TWANG!
HOW DANGEROUS IS THIS? IT'S STILL A DREAM, RIGHT?
THE BOND BETWEEN THE MIND AND BODY IS STRONGER THAN ONE MIGHT THINK.
THE DANGER TO BOTH IS VERY REAL.

BLINK!
WOW! OKAY... I GUESS IT WORKED.
AT LEAST, I HOPE IT WORKED.

HMM.
DOESN'T LOOK SO BAD TO ME.
THEN AGAIN, IT'S NOT MY NIGHTMARE.
SKIIIID
HUSSHHHHH
RUSTLE
crunch
CRACKLE

RUSTLE!
CRACKLE
SNAP
HELLO? ANYONE HERE?!
CRUNCH
AUGH!
SWOOP!
AAAURGH!

HOLD IT! HOLD IT! WHO ARE YOU?!
I could ask the same thing whippersnapper! What do you think you're doing he-
HACK!
COUGH
COUGH
WHEEZE
SIR... SIR, ARE YOU OKAY? CAN I HELP?
COUGH
PANT...PANT...
I'm FINE! I just need to *huff*, catch my breath, *hoof*.
WAIT...
HUFF Gets harder to catch every year...
THAT TATTOO... ON THE RIGHT ARM!
RILEY!

RILEY, IT'S ME! THIS IS ALL A DREAM. WE'VE GOT TO ESCAPE!
Credenza... Credenza... I think I used to know a girl by that name.
THAT'S ME! WE NEED--
SNAP!
You can't be her. It was all so long ago.
We were friends, I think. But in the end she left me behind.
RUSTLE
CRACKLE
Everyone leaves me behind, as soon as they get the chance.
HSSS
RUSTLE

THAT'S NOT TRUE, RILEY! IT'S JUST PART OF THIS DREAM. NOBODY'S LEFT YOU!
Everyone leaves sooner or later. I can't give them any reason to stay. I've never been smart or talented.
SNAG!
First, my father...
...then Mama...
...even my brother tried to leave me in Quillotia.
It was only a matter of time until he finally managed to leave me behind.
WHAT ABOUT ALICE?! YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY THINK SHE WOULD LEAVE YOU!
Alice... Alice who? I must have forgotten her.
Like everyone forgot me.

NOPE! NUH-UH! THERE IS NO UNIVERSE WHERE YOU COULD COMPLETELY FORGET ALICE!
HUMANS GET OLD AND FORGET NAMES AND FACES, EVEN THE PEOPLE THEY LOVE.
BUT YOU'RE MORE THAN HUMAN, RILEY!
...
RRRG! WHAT AM I DOING WRONG?!
THERE'S GOT TO BE A WAY TO GET THROUGH TO YOU!
I think I remember... a smell.
It was... seafoam, and palm oil, and sugar cookies. I knew that scent in my heart, in my bones, in my teeth... it was the most beautiful scent in the world.